

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RANGOO 03354 01 OF 02 051059Z

12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SNM-02 DEAE-00

JUSE-00 OES-06 EB-07 AID-05 /125 W

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R 050957Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2383

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSIONUSUN NY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 3354

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SNAR, MORG, BM

SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #39, SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 5

CONTENTS

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 RANGOO 03354 01 OF 02 051059Z

1. NE WIN TO RETURN OCTOBER 16

2. COUP PLOT TRIAL CONTINUES
3. MORE ON BSPP PURGE
4. NARCOTICS: ARRESTS AND SEIZURES
5. NARCOTICS: INCREASED PRESS COVERAGE
6. NEW INFANTRY DIVISION ACTIVATED
7. DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH MEXICO, MAURITANIA
8. NEW AMBASSADORS TO BELGIUM, FROM SWEDEN, BULGARIA
9. OFFSHORE PETROLEUM EXPLORATION
10. PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR F-28
11. VISIT BY ROK ENCONOMIC ADVISER
12. U.N. RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR BURMA
13. BLACK MARKET PARENTS
14. FORD VICTORY PREDICTED

END CONTENTS.

1. NE WIN TO RETURN OCT. 16 (CONF)
PRESIDENT NE WIN PLANS TO RETURN FROM EUROPE
OCTOBER 16. HE HAS VISITED THE FRG AS WELL AS SWITZER-
LAND FOR MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS AND OTHER PURPOSES. THE
OTHER PURPOSES REPORTEDLY INCLUDE JUNE ROSE BELLAMY,
THE DAUGHTER OF A FEMALE DESCENDANT OF BURMA'S LAST
ROYAL FAMILY AND AN AUSTRALIAN. FORMERLY MARRIED TO
AN ITALIAN WITH WHO, SHE IS AN ATTRACTIVE LADY IN HER
MID-40'S WHO HAS BEEN LIVING IN SWITZERLAND AND IS
SCHEDULED TO COME TO RANGOON ALONG WITH THE PRESIDENT
AND HIS PARTY.

2. COUP PLOT TRIAL CONTINUES (UNCL)
THE COUP PLOT TRIAL CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK
WITH TESTIMONY FROM A NUMBER OF PROSECUTION WITNESSES..
THE MOST INTERESTING TESTIMONY FROM THE U.S. POINT OF
VIEW WAS BY THE GUARD ON DUTY AT THE AMBASSADOR'S
RESIDENCE JULY 2 WHEN THE ACCUSED CAPT. OHN KYAW MYINT
REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM, AND BY FORMER MIS CHIEF
COL. AUNG HTAY, WHO TOLD ABOUT THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL
ON NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU CHIEF COL. TIN OO TO
REPORT THE ASYLUM REQUEST (RANGOON 3328).

THE WEEK'S TESTIMONY REVEALED THAT ALTHOUGH SEVERAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 RANGOO 03354 01 OF 02 051059Z

OFFICERS OTHER THAN THOSE PRESENTLY STANDING TRIAL WERE
AWARE OF PART OR ALL OF THE CONSPIRACY, IT WAS DEPUTY
MINISTER OF MINES COL. THAN TIN WHO EXPOSED THE PLOT
ON JULY 2 AFTER HE WAS ASKED TO JOIN IN IT THE PRE-
CEDING EVENING. ALSO, IT WAS ESTABLISHED THAT CAPT.
OHN KYAW MYINT WAS ARRESTED THE NIGHT OF JULY 3 AT
MINGALADON AIRBASE BY VICE CHIEF OF STAFF (AIR) BRIG.
GEN. SAW PRU, FROM WHOM HE UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT

ASSISTANCE.

3. MORE ON BSPP PURGE (CONF)

CONSUL MANDALAY REPORTS THAT THE BURMA SOCIALIST PROGRAM PARTY PURGE (SEE WEEKA #37) AFFECTS ABOUT 9000 PEOPLE IN MANDALAY DIVISION ALONE AND AS MANY AS 100,000 NATION-WIDE. A BROAD SPECTRUM OF PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED, FROM ORDINARY LOW-LEVEL MEMBERS TO PROMINENT PERSONALITIES AT HIGHER LEVELS OF THE STATE AND PARTY APPARATUS. OUTRIGHT EXCLUSIONS ARE FEW, SINCE THIS REQUIRES EXTENSIVE BUREAUCRATIC PROCEEDINGS WITHIN THE PARTY; INSTEAD, PARTY RESPONSIBILITIES ARE BEING SUSPENDED AT HIGHER LEVELS AND MEMBERSHIP CARDS ARE BEING PICKED UP AND NOT RETURNED AT LOWER LEVELS. REASONS FOR THESE ACTIONS ARE OFTEN UNCLEAR, EVEN TO THOSE AFFECTED, BUT INCLUDE PARTY INACTIVITY, CORRUPTION, AND PAST COMMUNIST POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS. GUB OFFICIALS WHO HAVE RECEIVED PARTY SUSPENSION NOTICES ARE IN MOST CASES BEING INSTRUCTED TO CARRY ON WITH THEIR JOBS FOR THE TIME BEING. AT LEAST PART OF THE MOTIVATION FOR THE PURGE MAY BE A DESIRE TO ELIMINATE UNDESIRABLES OF VARIOUS SORTS IN PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS TO THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND TO GOVERNMENTAL ELECTORAL BODIES WHICH ARE SCHEDULED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THE PRESS HAS MADE NO MENTION OF THE PURGE. HOWEVER, SINCE SEPTEMBER 28 IT HAS REPORTED THE SUSPENSION FROM DUTY OF FOUR CHAIRMEN OF TOWNSHIP PEOPLE'S COUNCILS (INCLUDING THOSE IN PROME AND TOUNGOO) AND SEVEN OTHER TOWNSHIP PEOPLE'S COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

4. NARCOTICS: ARRESTS AND SEIZURES (UNCL)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 RANGOO 03354 01 OF 02 051059Z

THE BURMESE PRESS CONTINUED TO GIVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO POLICE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES. THE ACCOUNTS DESCRIBED POLICE ACTION THROUGHOUT BURMA AND INCLUDE: THREE RAIDS IN TANGYANG TOWNSHIP IN WHICH 16 VISS OF OPIUM WAS SEIZED; THE ROUNDUP OF A FOUR MEMBER HEROIN TRAFFICKING GANG IN MANDALAY AND THE SEIZURE OF HEROIN VALUED AT KYAT 300,000; THE ARREST OF ONE TRAFFICKER AND THE SEIZURE OF TWO VISS OF OPIUM IN BHAMO (KACHIN STATE); THE ARREST OF ONE TRAFFICKER AND THE SEIZURE OF TWO VISS OF MARIJUANA IN MOULMEIN; THE ARREST OF TWO GIRLS IN RANGOON IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEATH OF A 17 YEAR OLD YOUTH FROM AN OVERDOSE OF HEROIN; AND THE SEIZURE OF KYAT 5,500 WORTH OF WHAT HAS BEEN TERMED #6 HEROIN IN RANGOON. BURMESE AUTHORITIES HAVE PROMISED TO PROVIDE A SAMPLE OF THE

#6 HEROIN O THE EMBASSY FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS BY DEA.

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 03354 02 OF 02 051127Z

12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10

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JUSE-00 OES-06 EB-07 AID-05 /125 W

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2384

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSIONUSUN NY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 3354

5. NARCOTICS: INCREASED PRESS COVERAGE (LOU)

IN ADDITION TO THE NUMEROUS ACCOUNTS OF POLICE

ACTION AGAINST TRAFFICKERS, THE PRESS HAS CONTINUED TO

HIGHLIGHT THE DRUG PROBLEM IN EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARIES.

THE MOST STRIKING EXAMPLE DURING THE WEEK WAS A SIGNED

COLUMN APPEARING IN BOTH THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND VERNACU-
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PAGE 02 RANGOO 03354 02 OF 02 051127Z

LAR PRESS. AFTER RECOUNTING A MAJOR BUST IN BANGKOK THE
COLUMNIST WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE REASONS BEHIND AND
THE CONTINUING NEED FOR A COORDINATED NATIONAL NARCOTICS
SUPPRESSION EFFORT IN BURMA. THE COLUMNIST MENTIONED
THE NEED FOR POPPY ERADICATION, CROP SUBSTITUTION, ACTION
AGAINST TRAFFICKERS, REHABILITATION OF ADDICTS, AND A
PROGRAM TO AROUSE PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS.

COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM A VARIETY
OF SOURCES THAT THE PRESS IS UNDER ORDERS TO PLAY UP
THE MENACE OF DRUG ADDICTION, THE COSTS TO BURMA OF
WIDESPREAD NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, AND THE NECESSITY
OF A CONCERTED NATIONAL PROGRAM TO ELIMINATE THE
PROBLEM.

6. NEW INFANTRY DIVISION ACTIVATED (LOU)
THE BURMA ARMY HAS ACTIVATED A FOURTH INFANTRY
DIVISION, DESIGNATED THE 66TH DIVISION, WITH ITS
HEADQUARTERS AT PROME. TO DATE THE DIVISION HAS
ORGANIZED AND ACTIVATED FIVE NEW REGIMENTS OF TEN TO
BE AUTHORIZED. TWO OF THE NEW REGIMENTS ARE LOCATED
IN CENTRAL COMMAND AND THE REMAINDER ARE LOCATED IN
THE NORTHWEST COMMAND. ELEMENTS OF THE DIVISION ARE
REPORTED OPERATIONAL.

7 DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH MEXICO, MAURITANIA (UNCL)
THE GUB HAS ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS AT EMBASSY LEVEL WITH MEXICO AND MAURITANIA.

COMMENT: IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT RESIDENT ENVOYS WILL
BE EXCHANGED IN EITHER CASE.

8. NEW AMBASSADORS TO BELGIUM, FROM SWEDEN, BULGARIA (KNCL)
BURMESE AMBASSADOR TO FRG U CHIT MAUNG HAS BEEN APPOINTED
CONCURRENTLY AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM.

THE GUB ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF ARNE
FALTHEIM AS AMBASSADOR OF SWEDEN (RESIDENT IN KUALA LUMPUR),
AND OF DIMO KAMBUROV AS AMBASSADOR OF BULGARIA (RESIDENT
IN DACCA).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 RANGOO 03354 02 OF 02 051127Z

9. OFFSHORE PETROLEUM EXPLORATION (LOU)

ESSO HAS BEGUN DRILLING OPERATIONS ON ITS EIGHTH AND FINAL HOLE IN BURMESE WATERS. DRILLING HAS REACHED A DEPTH OF OVER 8,000 FEET, AND COMPANY OFFICIALS REPORT

THEY ARE "SLIGHTLY MORE OPTIMISTIC" ABOUT THIS SITE THAN THEY WERE ABOUT THEIR PREVIOUS HOLES, ALL OF WHICH FAILED TO TURN UP ANY SIGNIFICANT DEPOSITS. IF THIS HOLE FAILS TO FIND SIGNIFICANT TRACES OF HYDROCARBONS, ESSO WILL SPEND A LONG EVALUATION PERIOD BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO ATTEMPT TO RENEW OPERATIONS IN BURMESE WATERS.

10. PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR F-28 (UNCL)

ON SEPTEMBER 30, BURMA AIRWAYS CORPORATION (BAC) AND THE FOKKER COMPANY SIGNED A PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR ANOTHER F-28. TOTAL COST OF THE AIRCRAFT WAS SET AT \$7.1 MILLION AND SPARE PARTS WERE VALUED AT \$.6 MILLION. BAC OFFICIALS INDICATED THE PLANE WOULD BE USED ON INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS, PERHAPS INCLUDING A NEW STOP AT DELHI.

1. VISIT BY ROK ECONOMIC ADVISER (UNCL)

PROFESSOR KOH SUNG JOE, EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND ECONOMIC ADVISERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA VISITED BURMA SEPTEMBER 28 TO OCTOBER 2. DURING HIS STAY, PROFESSOR KOH SUNG JOE MET WITH GUB MINISTER FOR TRADE, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY 1, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND FINANCE AND OTHER RANKING GUB OFFICIALS. ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCES, LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE WAS DISCUSSED AND MOST CALLS WERE OF A "COURTESY NATURE." THE ROK USUALLY SENDS A TOP-RANKING OFFICIAL TO BURMA ON OR ABOUT THE SOUTH KOREAN NATIONAL DAY.

12. UN RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR BURMA (UNCL)

THE LOCAL UNDP REPRESENTATIVE, ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER AND RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR, PRESENTED SOME \$20,000 WORTH OF COTTON BLANKETS TO THE GUB MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE. THE BLANKETS ARE INTENDED FOR VICTIMS OF RECENT FLOODS IN ARAKAN STATE AND MAGWE DIVISION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 RANGOO 03354 02 OF 02 051127Z

COMMENT: FLOODS, PARTICULARLY IN MAGWE DIVISION, HAVE BEEN NO WORSE THAN NORMAL THIS YEAR AND THE UN ACTION CAME AS A BIT OF A SURPRISE.

13. BLACK MARKET PARENTS (LOU)

STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR CLASSES WHEN THE UNIVERSITIES RE-OPENED OCTOBER 1 HAD TO PRODUCE AN "AFFIDAVIT OF GOOD

CONDUCT" SIGNED BY THEMSELVES AND THEIR PARENTS BEFORE THEIR LOCAL PEOPLE'S COUNCIL. SINCE MANY PARENTS COULD NOT SPEND THE NECESSARY HOURS WAITING IN LINE AT THE COUNCIL, A BLACK MARKET PARENT SERVICE DEVELOPED IN WHICH TOTAL STRANGERS WOULD STAND IN LINE WITH THE STUDENTS AND SIGN AFFIDAVITS AS THEIR PARENTS FOR AS LITTLE AS TWO KYATS (ABOUT U.S. \$0.28).

14. FORD VICTORY PREDICTED (LOU)

IN A LETTER DELIVERED TO THE EMBASSY, A LOCAL SOOTH-SAYER HAS PREDICTED VICTORY FOR PRESIDENT FORD BASED ON THE POSITION OF THE PLANETS ON ELECTION DAY AND ON THE CANDIDATES' NAMES IN BURMESE. ACCORDING TO THE LETTER, THE BURMESE TRANSLITERATION OF FORD'S NAME (PHOE) ALSO MEANS "FILLING UP HOLES," WHILE CARTER (KERR-TERR) REPORTEDLY MEANS "STOPPING SOMEONE WITH LEGS WIDE APART INSTEAD OF STANDING UPRIGHT FOR THAT PURPOSE" (SIC). THESE POWERFUL SIGNS AND PORTENTS SHOULD NOT HEARTEN THE FORD CAMP TOO MUCH, HOWEVER. BURMESE ASTROLOGERS HAVE BEEN PREDICTING NE WIN'S IMMINENT DOWNFALL ALMOST WEEKLY FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS, SO FAR WITH ZERO ACCURACY.
OSBORN

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